expired on 7.1.88 allegdly committed suicide by burning herself sometime on the night of 9|10.1.1988. Her dead-body was found near the spot where her husband was cremated two days earlier. Her postmortem was done by two doctors on 10.1.88 and the reason of the death was found to be asphyxia and suffocation as a result of burn. According to the doctors in a case burning in the open air-death due to asphyxia and suffocation is not possible. The State Government have intimated that enquiries into the case are being done by the State CID.

Declaration of Tripura as a disturbed area

130. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire Tripura State has been declared as a disturbed area;

(b) if so, whether the State Government was consulted before the decision was taken to this effect; and

(c) if not, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government were repeatedly sounded to declare the whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area'. This was suggested by the Home Minister to the then Chief Minister on 6.1.87 at New Delhi but he agreed to declare only certain border areas as 'disturbed area.' Consequently two small pockets of 5 KMs depth on eastern and northen borders were declared as 'disturbed area' on 24.1.87 by the State Government of Tripura. A suggestion for declaring the whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area' was again made by the Home Minister to the then Chief Minister in his letter dated 31st December, 1987. The proposal to declare whole of Tripura as 'disturbed area' was also discussed by the Home Minister with the then Chief Minister on 4|1|1988 at Agartala but he did not favour this step. It was, however, agreed that there should be a task force to counter the insurgency and that BSF should cover not only the border posts but also 15KM inside the State on Chittagong Hill Tracts—Tripura border for counter-insurgency. The matter was again reviewed and discussed by the Minister of State for Home Affairs with the officers of the Tripura Government at Agartala on 23|24-1-88. All the options that were available to the Central Government and State Government were discussed. Following these discussions and taking into consideration the growing incidents of violence by TNV and to check the main ingress and agress routes of TNV, the Central Government declared on 26.1.88, a 15-KM belt along the Tripura-Chitagong Hill Tract border as 'disturbed area'. The stepping up of violence by TNV in all the districts of Tripura showed that extremists were deeply entrenched in whole of Tripura. The continued violence of the TNV, the threat of retaliation by non-tribals and the calls of TNV to disrupt elections necessitated stronger measures to deal with the activities of TNV. The Central Government was, therefore, left with no option but to declare whole of Tripura as 'disturbed'.

Meeting on GNLF issue

131. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of meetings were held between the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and some persons representing GNLF;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present stage of the talk to resolve the problems posed by the GNLF?